

Message Text

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50
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 COA-02 DLOS-07

EB-11 EURE-00 DRC-01 CIEP-02 OMB-01 NIC-01 /110 W

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P R 031600Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4621

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0900

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ELECTION: FURTHER REACTION

REF: REYKJAVIK 895

1. PRESS CONTINUES TO FEATURE ANALYSIS AND COMMENT ON JUNE 30 ELECTION RESULTS, BUT LATEST EDITORIALS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PARTY OFFICIALS STILL AVOID ALL BUT GENERALITIES ON POSSIBLE MAKEUP OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. JULY 3 MORGUNBLADID (IP) EDITORIAL SUMS UP FAILURES OF LEFTIST GOVERNMENT, ATTACKING COALITION ESPECIALLY ON ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE MATTERS. FIRST TASK OF NEW GOVT, WHATEVER ITS COMPOSITION, SAYS MORGUNBLADID, MUST BE WITHDRAWAL OF GOI DEFENSE PROPOSALS TO US. IN OTHER OPINION COLUMN, MORGUNBLADID SAYS RELATIVE SHOWING OF IP AND PA SHOWS CLEARLY HOW PEOPLE FEEL ON DEFENSE MATTERS. PAPER UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO CARRIED BRIEF INTERVIEWS WITH RESIGNING MINISTERS, NONE

OF WHOM WOULD PREDICT MAKEUP OF NEW GOVT, ALTHOUGH FONMIN AGUSTSSON
SAID IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO FORM CABINET WITH 30-30 TIE BETWEEN
FACTIONS FIN ALTHING. ON RESIGNATION OF THE GOVT EINAR AGUSTSSON
SAID: "I'M QUITE PLEASED TO GET A VACATION FROM THE WORK THAT I
HAVE BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. IT HAS OFTEN BEEN DIFFICULT
BUT I AM PLEASED WITH RESULTS THAT WE OBTAINED IN THE FISHERIES
DISPUTE. HOWEVER, NO SOLUTION HAS BEEN REACHED IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS
WHICH UNDENIABLY CASTS A SHADOW ON MY DEPARTURE."

3. THJODVILJINN (PA) CALLS SUNDAY'S RESULT GESTURE OF SUPPORT
FOR PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FROM WAGE-EARNERS AND ALL LEFTISTS.
PAPER ALSO STRESSES THAT IP FELL WELL SHORT OF ABSOLUTE MAJORITY
IT HAD SOUGHT. EDITORIAL REPEATS YESTERDAY'S SUGGESTION OF NEED
FOR PA AND PP TO RETAIN TIES, CLAIMING THAT ELECTION RESULT WAS
EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN TWO MAIN GOVERNING PARTIES AND A
WARNING TO SDP AND RIGHT-WING PROGRESSIVES. PA CHAIRMAN RAGNAR
ARNALDS, IN THJODVILJINN INTERVIEW, ALSO DECLARES PA VICTORY AND
REPEATS CLAIM THAT IP ONLY REGAINED SUPPORT LOST EARLIER. LEAST
OF ALL, SAID ARNALDS, CAN JUNE 30 VOTE BE SEEN AS MAJORITY
SUPPORT FOR IP'S "DEFENDED COUNTRY" POLICY, SINCE THREE PARTIES
FAVORING WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES CLEA RLY OUTPOLLED IP, THE ONLY
PARTY WHICH WANTS IDF IN ICELAND INDEFINITELY. IN OTHER
ARTICLE, THJODVILJINN CRITICIZES SDP CHAIRMAN GISLASON FOR
PROPOSING IP'S GEIR HALLGRIMSSON AS PRIME MINISTER. ARTICLE
POINTS OUT THAT EX-COALITION PARTIES ARE STRONGER THAN IP AND THAT
HALLGRIMSSON'S CHOICE NEED NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

4. TIMINN (PP) EDITORIAL IS LARGEY REHASH OF YESTERDAY'S
CLAIM THAT PROGRESSIVES DID WELL UNDER ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES
COMBINED WITH ATTACK ON THOSE WHO TRIED -- AND FAILED -- TO
SPLIT PARTY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTION RESULTS, CABINET, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA00900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740176-0876
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740777/aaaacnup.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: REYKJAVIK 895
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ELECTION: FURTHER REACTION
TAGS: PINT, IC, IDF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005